

At 12:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation.

H. Con. Res. 161. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills and joint resolutions were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 358. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3402. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3408. An act to reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and to amend the swine reporting provisions of that Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-188. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to requesting the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas, Created in 1999 to help state and local jurisdictions prepare for a national emergency, the Strategic National Stockpile

is a repository of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies administered jointly by the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

Whereas, Currently, if an act of bioterrorism occurs within Mexico near the United States border, it is up to each United States border state, including Texas, to request and deploy the Strategic National Stockpile across the border to protect the citizens of the state; and

Whereas, Procedures for deploying Strategic National Stockpile assets require the affected state governor's office to request deployment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Homeland Security; although the assets are transferred to state and local authorities once they arrive at the designated receiving and storage site in the affected state, the stockpile materials remain a federal asset; and

Whereas, Deployment, which may include a mass antibiotic dispensing operation, requires substantial state and local resources to receive, secure, and distribute Strategic National Stockpile assets; staging and dispensing the assets in another country requires a coordinated, comprehensive approach that is best addressed by the federal government; and

Whereas, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged the United States Department of Homeland Security with defining the goals and performance requirements of the Strategic National Stockpile program as well as managing the actual deployment of assets; critical to the success of this initiative is ensuring capacity at the federal level to respond to binational public health emergencies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico, provided that the Mexican government approves said request pursuant to treaties and other agreements with the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-189. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to legislation to authorize National Guard members to enroll in Department of Defense managed health care program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 282

Whereas, The United States of America is founded on the principle of citizen-soldiers safeguarding our national security, a construct that is as essential today as it was more than 368 years ago when the National Guard was established; and

Whereas, The oldest military institution in the United States, the National Guard has been, since its founding in 1636, a community-based force composed of citizen-soldiers, the members of the Army and Air National Guard serving the nation in time of war and their states in time of domestic emergency; and

Whereas, As our nation continues to fight the War on Terrorism and our military forces continue to be engaged in operations

in both Iraq and Afghanistan, we are, more than ever, dependent on the National Guard to defend the United States, both overseas and at home; and

Whereas, More than 197,000 soldiers of the Army National Guard and 31,000 members of the Air National Guard have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, the largest mobilization of the National Guard since World War II; and

Whereas, At this time, more than 51,000 Army Guardsmen are on the ground in Iraq and 15,000 are serving in Afghanistan, and sadly, more than 100 National Guard members have made the ultimate sacrifice; and

Whereas, Whether serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters or at home in the US, National Guard members are operating side-by-side with their active-duty counterparts; and

Whereas, With a presence in more than 3,000 communities across the nation, the National Guard is also playing a crucial role in homeland security; and

Whereas, The "Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005," embodied in S. 337 and H.R. 558, are currently pending before the 109th United States Congress; and

Whereas, In part, this legislation extends TRICARE coverage, the managed health care system for the U.S. military, on a contributory basis, to all members of the National Guard, regardless of mobilization status; and

Whereas, In light of their expanded role in military operations overseas and national security at home in our post-9/11 society, a reevaluation of our nation's commitment to the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard is in order; and

Whereas, These brave men and women deserve more than our thanks, they deserve more substantial personnel and readiness benefits that ensure the National Guard will continue to attract the best and brightest, from the active-duty component of the military as well as the civilian population; and

Whereas, The provision of adequate health care coverage to each and every citizen-soldier of the National Guard would repay but a small portion of our nation's debt to these exceptional men and women who are vigilantly defending our homeland, both at home and abroad; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House calls upon the United States Congress to provide health care benefits for National Guard members and their families by authorizing a member to enroll, on a contributory basis, for individual or family coverage under the TRICARE program, regardless of mobilization status.

2. This House urges that the United States Congress pass and the President of the United States approve the "Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005," now pending in the 109th Congress as S. 337 and H.R. 558, which authorizes a member of the National Guard to enroll for individual or family coverage under the TRICARE program, a Department of Defense managed health care program.

3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-190. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to fully funding the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget request in support

of the Space Exploration Vision for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to National Aeronautics to Space Administration (NASA), whose intrepid explorations of space and important scientific discoveries have inspired and benefited the people of our nation and state; and

Whereas, The Space Exploration Vision has set a goal of returning the Space Shuttle to flight, completing assembly of the International Space Station, developing the Crew Exploration Vehicle, returning humans to the moon, and pursuing and human exploration of Mars and the solar system; and

Whereas, NASA's landmark achievement in putting the first man on the moon, astronaut Neil Armstrong, on July 20, 1969, captured the imagination of people everywhere; and

Whereas, This new and major accomplishment ushered in new and exciting technological advances that have benefited our nation's security and cellular communications; NASA has also advanced our health care system through the development of MRI and CAT scan technology, fetal heart monitors, programmable heart pacemakers, and other important medical devices; and

Whereas, Through education programs like Texas Aerospace Scholars, the NASA Explorer Schools, and the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers, NASA is nurturing a new generation of explorers and scientists who can contribute to our nation's excellence; and

Whereas, NASA plays a vital role in the economy of the Lone Star State, by employing nearly 3,000 civil servants and approximately 13,000 contractors at the Johnson Space Center and by awarding almost \$4 billion worth of NASA contracts annually; small businesses across Texas with technical challenges have benefited from the support of the aerospace industry, NASA, and the State of Texas' support of the Technology Outreach Program, resulting in new business ventures within the state; and

Whereas, The Space Exploration Vision has the potential to further drive innovation, development, and advancement in the aerospace and other high technology industries across the nation and in the State of Texas; and

Whereas, The extraordinary contributions of NASA to science and technology are the pride of our state, and the Space Exploration Vision is truly deserving of legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge all members of the United States Congress to fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget request in support of the Space Exploration Vision, as submitted to the congress for fiscal year 2006, to enable the United States, and the State of Texas, to remain leaders in the exploration and development of space; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-191. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California rel-

ative to corporate average fuel economy standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 5

Whereas, California has more than 26 million registered motor vehicles and

Whereas, California represents at least 12 percent of the light-duty vehicle market in the United States; and

Whereas, Californians consume more than 18 billion gallons of motor fuel annually; and

Whereas, A study adopted by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission) and the State Air Resources Board (California Air Resources Board) projects that demand for onroad gasoline fuel will increase by about 1.6 percent annually between now and 2020; that onroad diesel demand will increase by about 2.4 percent annually between now and 2020; and that the number of miles that Californians drive is growing at a rate greater than the population growth; and

Whereas, California's refineries are operating at near capacity, and California is importing more gasoline and diesel fuel annually to meet this growing demand; and

Whereas, The combination of greater dependence on imported fuels and vulnerability to refinery outages exposes California's economy to more frequent and higher fuel price spikes; and

Whereas, Fuel price spike vulnerability creates a business climate with diminished certainty about anticipated expenses; and

Whereas, Petroleum extraction, refining, and use are significant sources of pollution and environmental degradation in California and around the world; and

Whereas, Motor vehicle fuel economy dramatically affects fuel demand; and

Whereas, A study adopted by the California Energy Commission and the California Air Resources Board determined that doubling the fuel economy of the nation's light-duty motor vehicle fleet is technically achievable and will result in important reductions in consumer demand for fuel; and

Whereas, Only the federal government has the authority to require motor vehicle fuel economy improvements through the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standard; and

Whereas, In recent years, the nationwide motor vehicle fleet fuel economy has declined as motor vehicles have become larger, heavier, and less aerodynamic; and

Whereas, The United States Congress, through its legislative powers, and the President of the United States, through the President's administrative powers, are in position to require a significant increase in the CAFE standard; and

Whereas, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's current rulemaking raising CAFE standards for light-duty trucks and sport utility vehicles by just 1.5 miles per gallon above the 1996 levels, over three years, bringing total requirements far below requirements for passenger cars, is insufficient to address the critical need to improve fuel economy and reduce fuel demand; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States to take necessary action to increase CAFE standards by at least 1.5 miles per gallon per annum until total average fuel economy for the new light-duty motor vehicle fleet sold in California is double today's average; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members of the Congress of the United

States, and to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

POM-192. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to establishing a domestic energy policy that will ensure an adequate supply of natural gas, the appropriate infrastructure, and a concerted national effort to promote greater energy efficiency and that will open promising new areas for environmentally responsible natural gas production; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, The price of natural gas in the United States is among the highest in the industrial world and continues to show great volatility; and

Whereas, Abnormally high natural gas prices have been an unanticipated burden on the economy of the United States over the past 18 months; and

Whereas, The United States is reliant on natural gas in our national energy supply, and forecasts predict a future imbalance between natural gas supply and demand; and

Whereas, Manufacturers, farmers, small businesses, local governments, and retailers are struggling from the uncertainty in natural gas prices, and thousands of jobs are threatened because many businesses use natural gas as a raw material as well as a source of energy; and

Whereas, The natural gas imbalance is not a free-market problem; the high price of natural gas is created by governmental policies that increase demand for natural gas while impeding the development of a greater supply of natural gas by discouraging more exploration and production; and

Whereas, The United States needs policies to encourage and ensure the safe and efficient domestic production and importation of natural gas; and

Whereas, The State of Texas supports a sound, domestic energy policy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact legislation in the 109th Congress establishing a domestic energy policy that will ensure an adequate supply of natural gas the appropriate infrastructure, and a concerted national effort to promote greater energy efficiency and that will open promising new areas for environmentally responsible natural gas production; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-193. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to support for the Passaic River Restoration Initiative; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 227

Whereas, The Passaic River Restoration Initiative (PRRI), a new cooperative approach to restore the Passaic River, will utilize the leadership of the [U.S.] United States Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the, [U.S.] United States Environmental Protection Agency, and various concerned federal, state and local agencies; and

Whereas, The Passaic River and its surrounding wetlands have been degraded as a

result of [the State's] commercial growth in the State that brought industrial development to the [Passaic's] shores of the Passaic River and surrounding properties; and

Whereas, The Passaic River, which traverses New Jersey through Newark, is an ideal pilot [for the proposed PRRI as appropriated by Congress] project to showcase nationally the restoration of urban waterways, wildlife habitat, and one of America's most historic rivers; and

Whereas, Under the PRRI, the [U.S.] United States Army Corps of Engineers will engage in a cooperative project planning and development process to identify and apply feasible solutions to achieve environmental restoration and economic revitalization of the Passaic River; and

Whereas, The results of the project development process will be incorporated in a report to Congress from the Chief of Engineers as project implementation will require authorization by Congress; and

Whereas, The PRRI is related to several other current major federal initiatives, such as those under [Brownfields Redevelopment] brownfields redevelopment, the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration Program; and

Whereas, On April 11, 2000 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the United States House of Representatives approved a resolution authorizing the [U.S.] United States Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the Passaic River Environmental Restoration reconnaissance study, which is currently underway by the [Corps'] New York district of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

Whereas, It is in the best interest of the State to support the enactment of the Passaic River Restoration Initiative in order to restore and preserve [the Passaic River to] healthy environmental and economic conditions in and along the Passaic River; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the United States Congress to support the Passaic River Restoration Initiative in order to restore and preserve the Passaic River to healthy environmental and economic conditions, and to provide the funding for the federal share of the project development process and the necessary study funds of the [U.S.] United States Army Corps of Engineers to advance the Passaic River Restoration Initiative.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law. Italic matter that follows the bold brackets is new matter.

POM-194. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to rejecting privatizing Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

Whereas, Social Security is based on a promise to the American people: if you work hard and contribute to Social Security, you will be able to retire and live in dignity; and

Whereas, Social Security is the primary source of income for two-thirds of American seniors; and

Whereas, The State of New Jersey recognizes that over 1,363,814 beneficiaries in this State, including 140,693 disabled workers and their families, as well as over 100,000 children, receive guaranteed Social Security benefits which allow them to live without falling into poverty or suffering from a diminished quality of life because of retirement, disability, or the death of a parent or spouse; and

Whereas, As of January 2005 (the most recent data available) Social Security benefits for retired workers average only \$965.32 per month, which amount is barely sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living in many parts of New Jersey, especially for seniors with relatively high health care costs; and

Whereas, The U.S. Congress has consistently spent the Social Security surplus on other programs including tax cuts, which has created a long-term funding shortfall; and

Whereas, In 2001 President George W. Bush created the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security (referred to in this resolution as the "Bush Social Security Commission"), naming as Commission members only those who advocated Social Security privatization, and mandating that the proposals put forward by the Commission include privatization of Social Security; and

Whereas, The Bush Social Security Commission's proposed changes could reduce Social Security benefits to future retirees by as much as 46 percent; and

Whereas, Under the Bush Social Security Commission's proposal, the cuts in Social Security benefits would apply to all seniors, not just those who choose to participate in privatized accounts; and

Whereas, The cuts in Social Security benefits could be even deeper if individuals shift funds to privatized accounts; and

Whereas, Privatization advocates attempt to justify cuts in Social Security benefits by pointing to future projected shortfalls in the Social Security trust fund, but diversion of payroll tax revenues from the trust fund into privatized accounts would substantially accelerate the date by which the Social Security trust fund becomes insolvent; and

Whereas, In order to avoid accelerating the insolvency of the Social Security trust fund, the Bush Social Security Commission was forced to propose that the Federal Government incur as much as \$4,700,000,000,000 in Federal debt (in today's dollars) by 2042; and

Whereas, The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts that there will be no shortfall until 2052, when Social Security will be able to pay only 80% of recipients' benefits due to insufficient revenue from the payroll tax, if no action is taken in the meantime; and

Whereas, In the past, the Social Security Trust Fund has encountered similar challenges, including larger projected shortfalls during the 1980's, which were resolved without privatization schemes and without reducing guaranteed benefits for the elderly, the disabled, and children; and

Whereas, Private accounts would not only reduce guaranteed benefits, but would also speed up the Social Security shortfall, causing recipients to receive reduced benefits by the year 2018 instead of 2052; and

Whereas, The deep cuts in Social Security benefits proposed by the Bush Social Security Commission could jeopardize the financial security of not only thousands of New Jersey residents but also the security of millions of Americans; and

Whereas, Under President Bush's proposal, guaranteed Social Security protections to the elderly, disabled, survivors, and children will gradually erode for future generations, driving millions of Americans into poverty and destroying the most successful social insurance program ever created in the United States; and

Whereas, It is recognized that Social Security faces future challenges, but powerful members in both the President's party and the opposition do not find the solution in privatizing the most successful government program in our nation's history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to reject the Social Security privatization proposals of the President's Social Security Commission that would create private accounts, require deep cuts in guaranteed Social Security benefits and lead to excessive federal borrowing.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

POM-195. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to eliminating current caps on funded Medicare resident training positions and related limits on costs per resident used to determine Medicare graduate medical education reimbursement payments and to reexamine the direct and indirect graduate medical education reimbursement rates for graduate medical education in Texas; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Two major phases comprise the American system of medical education—medical school, consisting of classroom and clinical training, and the several years of graduate medical education completed during a student's residency, typically in an accredited medical education program at a teaching hospital or academic health center; and

Whereas, Significant funding for this post-graduate training is provided through Medicare's graduate medical education program, whereby the federal government reimburses teaching hospitals and certain other facilities for a portion of the costs associated with operating health education programs; and

Whereas, Medicare's funding includes two categories of reimbursement payments, direct graduate medical education payments and indirect graduate medical education payments; direct graduate medical education payments cover the costs of resident stipends, salaries for supervising faculty positions, and administrative expenses associated with the residency program; indirect graduate medical education payments cover the increased operating expenses resulting from training residents, such as greater technological needs, longer patient stays, and the ordering of a greater number of tests; and

Whereas, The amount of Medicare's reimbursement to a teaching hospital is partially determined by the number of full-time equivalent residents enrolled in the facility's graduate medical education program; however, in 1997, the federal Balanced Budget Act considerably reduced the amount of federal support for graduate medical education programs by limiting the number of full-time equivalent residents that hospitals can use in calculating direct graduate medical education payments and indirect graduate medical education payments and by scheduling an estimated 29 percent further reduction in indirect graduate medical education payments over a five-year period; and

Whereas, The rates of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services payments for direct graduate medical education in Texas are already significantly lower than those in many

comparable states, largely based on historical differences, and the potential consequences of these caps and the resulting reductions in federal graduate medical education reimbursement are severe; teaching hospitals and the training they provide to physicians and other health professionals are a critical component of the American health care system—these facilities are the vanguard of medical research and technology and provide a broader range of an increasingly diverse and sicker patient care to population than general hospitals; and

Whereas, In addition, teaching hospitals are a traditional fixture of the health care “safety net,” serving uninsured and underinsured patients; the importance of this service to Texans is evident in light of United States Census Bureau reports indicating that nearly 25 percent of the state’s population is not covered by health insurance; and

Whereas, More specifically, the resident caps threaten the future availability of health care professionals and with the population of the nation aging, the demand for doctors and other health care professionals is increasing; in fact, a 2003 study commissioned by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions at the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis forecasts a greater need for physicians and nurses by 2020 if current health care consumption and physician productivity remain constant; and

Whereas, Furthermore, the study found that the health care workforce is also aging and will retire just as their services are most needed and that the proportion of the population age 18 to 30 is declining, impeding efforts to recruit an adequate number of new health care workers; and

Whereas, Congress has acknowledged the deleterious effects of the federal Balanced Budget Act caps and made bipartisan efforts to diminish its effect on graduate medical education programs; the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 froze indirect graduate medical education payments for one year and the Medicare prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 increased indirect graduate medical education payments slightly for federal fiscal years 2004 and 2005; and

Whereas, Nevertheless, these measures offered only brief and minor reprieves to the dramatic reductions in indirect graduate medical education reimbursement payments and did not directly address the issue of federal caps in resident training positions though, clearly, the caps and the decreased commitment to indirect graduate medical education funding continue to endanger the entire system of medical education in the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully encourage the Congress of the United States to eliminate current caps on funded Medicare resident training positions and related limits on costs per resident used to determine Medicare graduate medical education reimbursement payments and to reexamine the direct and indirect graduate medical education reimbursement rates for graduate medical education in Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-196. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to port customs revenue; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 21

Whereas, The State of California is committed to protecting and preserving its ports, and those employed in and around the ports; and

Whereas, The state supports the safe and reliable transportation of goods into and through the state; and

Whereas, California is home to more than 12 percent of the nation’s population; and

Whereas, The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which together transport 43 percent of the nation’s trade, 1 million cruise passengers, and more than \$200,000,000,000 in trade annually, comprise the largest port complex in the United States and the Western Hemisphere; and

Whereas, California serves as an international commerce gateway between the nation and most of its trade partners and, according to the California Transportation Commission, California moves over \$400,000,000,000 in goods annually with a source or destination outside of California; and

Whereas, Forecasts predict that the amount of trade transported through the state’s ports will triple by 2020 if adequate infrastructure improvements are completed; and

Whereas, California is the single largest trading entity in the United States, and three of the four largest volume container ports in the United States are located in California; and

Whereas, California ports, harbors, and businesses that depend on federal channels and breakwaters contribute more than \$40,000,000,000 per year to national economic output, 1.6 million jobs, and approximately \$21,000,000,000 annual personal income to the United States economy; and

Whereas, Federal grants for security upgrades mandated by the United States Department of Homeland Security amount to just over \$51,000,000, while it is estimated that these security upgrades will cost California’s three major container ports an estimated \$200,000,000 to install; and

Whereas, The American Association of Port Authorities has called for the federal government to provide \$400,000,000 in port security funds annually; and

Whereas, The United States Coast Guard has additionally estimated that it will require \$7,300,000,000 in federal funds for its own maritime security duties during 10-year period of 2003 to 2012, inclusive; and

Whereas, Limited federal port security funds have fallen short of fully funding port security needs throughout the nation; and

Whereas, On August 25, 2004, Stephen E. Flynn, the Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow for National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations testified to the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation on the risk of terrorist attacks, stating that “the risk of harm is great or greater in the maritime and surface transportation modes”; and

Whereas, An internal audit report produced by the United States Department of Homeland Security entitled “Review of the Port Security Grant Program” criticized the ineffectiveness of the federal port security grant program stating, in part, that the “current design of the program compromises the program’s ability to direct resources toward the nation’s highest priorities”; and

Whereas, A Public Policy Institute of California study entitled, “Federal Formula Grants and California: Homeland Security,” has found that California receives only \$5 per

person to distribute to first responders in the state, while other states, such as Wyoming, received more than \$38 per capita in 2004; and

Whereas, California received only \$23.71 per capita in Homeland Security grant funding during fiscal years 2002–03 and 2003–04, ranking 44th in the nation; and

Whereas, Federal port security grants cannot be used for maintenance and operations expenditures related to security, thereby complicating emergency communications and operations duties expected of first responders; and

Whereas, A number of ports are located on state tidelands and, therefore, must act as stewards of the land and manage those lands in a manner that benefits all Californians; and

Whereas, A shut down of the ports can result in an estimated loss to the national economy of more than \$1,000,000,000 per day, as demonstrated during the shutdown of the west coast ports in 2002; and

Whereas, California ports are responsible for \$8,000,000,000 of the \$20,000,000,000 that the United States Customs Service collects annually in fees and duties, and none of that revenue is reinvested in the state’s or country’s system for moving goods because customs fees are deposited into the General Fund; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to increase federal funding for California’s ports for infrastructure and security improvements; and be it further

Resolved, That legislation be enacted, in recognition of the unique role served by ports in California, to ensure a return of an equitable share of the customs revenues generated by, and collected from, this state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature supports efforts by California’s congressional and senate representatives to obtain an equitable share of federal port security and goods movement infrastructure funding and encourages those representatives to support measures that will guarantee that California has the funds necessary to secure and facilitate commercial activity at its many ports; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Director of the Department of Homeland Security.

POM-197. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Darfur; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 6

Whereas, Sudan’s government and southern rebels have come to an historic, long-awaited agreement that ends Africa’s longest civil war and brings hope to millions of exiled Sudanese yearning to return home; and

Whereas, Continued violence in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan, previously described by the Bush administration as genocide, cast a shadow over the agreement, which does not cover the Darfur conflict; and

Whereas, Darfur, an area of 256,000 square kilometers constituting the western region of the Sudan, is home to an estimated five million people, a population made up of a complex tribal mix; and

Whereas, Large swathes of Darfur have been prone to drought and desertification, intensifying demands on its more fertile

lands, making areas of Darfur subject to sporadic intertribal clashes over use of resources in recent decades; and

Whereas, The government of the Sudan appears to have sponsored a militia composed of a loose collection of fighters, apparently of Arab background, known as the "Janjaweed"; and

Whereas, With the active support of the regular army, the Janjaweed have attacked villages, targeting those suspected of supporting the rebels and committing numerous human rights violations; and

Whereas, The humanitarian consequences of the situation in Darfur are grave, with an estimated 70,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered, and according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, an estimated 1,600,000 people internally displaced, and more than 200,000 people forced from their homes and fleeing to neighboring Chad; and

Whereas, The government of the Sudan should, at the highest levels, publicly and unequivocally condemn all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, investigate those violations, and bring the perpetrators to justice; and

Whereas, The Janjaweed and other militias should be immediately disarmed and disbanded, and humanitarian workers must be given full and unimpeded access to Darfur; and

Whereas, Refugees and displaced persons should be permitted to return to their lands and homes voluntarily, and should receive restitution or fair compensation for their losses; and

Whereas, Fundamental human rights must be respected in times of peace and in times of armed conflict; and

Whereas, The Sudan is a party to several core human rights treaties, including the International Covenant and Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That it is the sense of the Legislature of the State of California that the government of the Sudan should, at the highest levels, publicly and unequivocally condemn all actions and crimes committed by the Janjaweed, ensure that all militias are immediately disarmed and disbanded, and pursue a policy of national reconciliation, ending impunity and ensuring the rule of law and the protection of minorities; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the further sense of the Legislature that humanitarian workers must be given full and unimpeded access to Darfur in order to ensure that there is no blockage in the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the further sense of the Legislature that the government of the Sudan should put in place measures to ensure that human rights abuses, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are not repeated in the future and that the rule of law is restored in Darfur in conformity with internationally agreed standards; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully requests that the President and Congress of the United States continue to take all prudent and necessary steps to ensure that these matters are addressed at the highest levels of the federal government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Rep-

resentative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the United States Secretary of State, and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

POM-198. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado relative to expressing sympathy for the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis that occurred on December 26, 2004, and thanking Coloradans for their generous charitable donations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-1005

Whereas, On the morning of December 26, 2004, one of the largest earthquakes in recent memory registering a magnitude of 9.0 occurred undersea in the Indian Ocean, setting off one of the largest tsunamis in recorded history that killed tens of thousands of people in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, The tsunamis crossed into the Pacific Ocean and were recorded as far away as New Zealand and along the west coast of South and North America; and

Whereas, The earthquake and resulting tsunamis affected a large number of countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Somalia; and

Whereas, At least 150,000 people have lost their lives in East Africa and Southeast Asia in the aftermath of the earthquake and resulting tsunamis; and

Whereas, Millions of people remain homeless and at risk from disease; and

Whereas, Thousands of people are still missing, and the death toll continues to grow; and

Whereas, Aid workers and volunteers are focused on stopping the spread of disease and on delivering food and drinking water to survivors; and

Whereas, Coloradans have always stepped forward to help in times of need by providing financial, material, and medical assistance; and

Whereas, The American Red Cross reports that emergency assessment and first-aid teams were on the ground quickly and are working with local groups to support relief efforts; and

Whereas, The people of Colorado have shown their generosity by donating thus far \$4.1 million statewide to the various chapters of the American Red Cross, \$3.5 million of which has been donated to the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross; and

Whereas, Chennai, India became Denver's 7th sister city in 1984 and has been deeply affected by the tsunamis in that more than 6,000 people in Chennai were killed; and

Whereas, Local radio and television stations and various local groups are contributing their time and efforts to help provide financial assistance for areas devastated by the tsunamis, including Chennai; and

Whereas, The United States government has pledged \$350 million in aid, to meet the overwhelming needs of the tsunami victims; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

1. That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby express our sorrow to each of the countries affected by the earthquake and tsunamis and for the terrible loss of life and suffering caused by the earthquake and tsunamis; and

2. That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby offer our condolences to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis and their loved ones; and

3. That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly; hereby express our heart-

felt thanks to all Coloradans for their generous charitable donations for the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis, be it further

That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

POM-199. A Senate Joint Resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado relative to a reaffirmation by the Colorado General Assembly of the strong bonds connecting the United States and the State of Israel and an expression by the Colorado General Assembly of support and solidarity with the State of Israel in its struggle against terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-038

Whereas, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British mandate of Palestine and, by that vote, created the state of Israel; and

Whereas, On May 14, 1948, the people of the state of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel; and

Whereas, The United States government recognized the state of Israel just minutes after its declaration of independence and, at that time, established full diplomatic relations with the nascent state; and

Whereas, The establishment of the state of Israel as a modern homeland for the Jewish people followed the extermination of more than six million European Jews during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, Since its establishment fifty-seven years ago, the Israeli people have built a modern nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, cultural, and intellectual life while confronting immense pressures and burdens associated with war, terrorism, ostracism from much of the international community, and economic boycotts; and

Whereas, In spite of this severe degree of adversity confronting them since 1948, including the War of Independence, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, and the terrorist attacks of the two Intifadas, the people of the state of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic and democratic political system that guarantees fundamental freedoms of speech and of the press, free, fair, and open elections, and respect for the rule of law; and

Whereas, At great financial and social cost, Israel has absorbed several millions of immigrants from many nations around the world and has made great strides in fully integrating these immigrants into Israeli society; and

Whereas, For over half a century, the people of the United States and the people of the state of Israel have created and maintained a special relationship based upon mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and the bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas, The bonds connecting the United States and Israel include increased economic ties between the two nations, particularly increased trade between Colorado and Israel as evidenced by the following facts: In 2003, Colorado exported approximately \$38 million worth of goods to Israel; total Colorado exports to Israel have exceeded \$250 million since 1991; in 2003, Israel ranked as Colorado's 21st leading trade partner; and collaboration between Colorado-based and Israeli business concerns is taking place in, among other things, the areas of advanced technology, telecommunications, and health care; and

Whereas, The bonds connecting the United States and Israel also include greater collaboration between scientific researchers in both nations, including researchers in Colorado and Israel, and researchers in Colorado and Israel are collaborating on scientific projects involving, among other things, atmospheric science, applied chemistry and physics, medicine, and agriculture; and

Whereas, The United States also has benefited from the exchange of technology and expertise from Israel in the area of homeland security, providing invaluable benefits to our nation in combating and responding to terrorism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado, hereby reaffirm the strong bonds that have connected the people of the United States and the people of the state of Israel together through turbulent times for more than half a century.

(2) That we commend the people of the state of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a democratic and pluralistic society in the wake of almost unrelieved adversity spanning the entirety of the nation's existence.

(3) That we express empathy with the people of the state of Israel as they endure a daily struggle against terrorism and violence and support efforts to bring security to the Jewish and democratic state of Israel.

(4) That we express outrage against, and in the strongest possible terms condemn, all acts of terror perpetrated against the Israeli people with the intent and effect of murdering Israeli civilians, including women and children.

(5) That we support the brave efforts of the government and people of Israel in pursuing peace by way of negotiation.

(6) That we applaud the government of Israel's difficult and painful decision to disengage from Gaza and the northern section of the West Bank in order to advance peace negotiations.

(7) That we reaffirm the commitment of the American people to a just, lasting, and secure peace for the people of the state of Israel and all of the peoples of the Middle East, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, His Excellency Daniel Ayalon, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

POM-200. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to urging the Congress of the United States to increase the presence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Texas, improve coordination of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention programs with those operated by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and increase the amount of federal resources coming into Texas from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, The State of Texas is the second most populous state in the United States and currently registers more than 1,000 births per day; and

Whereas, Texas has a 1,254-mile international border with the United Mexican States with millions of border crossings and thousands of international flights arriving in Texas each year, and 10 percent of Texans living on the border with Mexico; and

Whereas, Mexico is the United States' second-largest trading partner and, according to the Center for Transportation Research at The University of Texas at Austin, 76 percent of all U.S. trade with Mexico passes through Texas; and

Whereas, The nation's food industry has a pivotal role in the health and bio-security of all Americans, and Texas is the nation's second largest agricultural producing state; and

Whereas, Preventing infectious livestock and plant diseases and protecting our food supply goes a long way toward ensuring both human health and economic stability in Texas and the United States; and

Whereas, Serving as an infectious disease buffer zone for the rest of the United States, Texas faces a significant burden regarding a number of diseases, with the rate of water-borne diseases such as hepatitis A and amebiasis in the Texas counties bordering Mexico that has, as an example, been reported to be two to three times greater than the statewide average; in 2003, the rate of tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 in population was nearly twice that of non-border counties; and

Whereas, The condition of public health within Texas, particularly along the international border, is clearly critical to that of the entire country; and

Whereas, With more than 22 million residents, Texas also faces a number of other alarming public health issues, such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes; in 2003, the Texas Department of Health reported that 39 percent of Texas fourth-graders, 38 percent of eighth-graders, and 61 percent of Texas adults were overweight or obese; and

Whereas, Heart disease and stroke are the number one and number three causes of death in Texas, accounting for approximately 54,000 deaths each year in Texas; and

Whereas, The Texas Diabetes Council estimates that more than one million adults in Texas have been diagnosed with diabetes and more than 500,000 adults are believed to have undiagnosed diabetes; and

Whereas, An increased presence and resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could help prevent vaccine-preventable childhood and adult diseases and prevent and control the introduction of lethal diseases such as tuberculosis and SARS, which could potentially lead to catastrophic consequences in terms of morbidity, mortality, health care costs, and statewide impact; and

Whereas, Partnerships and coordination between the State of Texas and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could greatly enhance protection against the spread of infectious disease, further obesity prevention activities, and improve early detection, treatment, and self-management of chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes; and

Whereas, Texas' growing population, demographic diversity, and border with the United Mexican States present unique challenges to providing quality health care to its citizens; as a buffer to the remainder of the United States against infectious disease and contamination of the country's food supply, the State of Texas merits additional resources to provide for the health of its residents and, ultimately, to safeguard the health of the entire United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby strongly encourage the United States Congress to increase the presence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Texas, improve coordination of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention programs with those operated by the Texas Department of State Health Services,

and increase the amount of federal resources coming into Texas from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America and that copies also be forwarded to the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

POM-201. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to urging the Congress of the United States to increase funding to the fully authorized level and include advance funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and to pursue a more equitable funding allocation formula for the program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 166

Whereas, More than four million Texans are at or below 125 percent of Federal poverty guidelines, but only 173,323, or 4.3 percent, are served by the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), according to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), which administers the program in our State; and

Whereas, Income guidelines for LIHEAP, which provides funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program at TDHCA, allow households to have income levels of up to 125 percent of current poverty guidelines; however, based upon 2000 census data, Texas has more than three million persons who are at or below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines; and

Whereas, Home energy assistance is particularly important in Texas due to the intense heat, which is a critical health threat to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and very young children; in fact, the Texas Department of Health reports that in our State more individuals die due to heart-related stress than exposure to excessive cold; and

Whereas, LIHEAP funds are distributed based on an outdated formula that disproportionately favors heating degree days in northern States over cooling degree days in southern States and does not utilize the most current State-specific population, income, and energy price data; and

Whereas, While funding was close to level from Federal fiscal year 2003 to 2005, the recent increase in energy costs has further reduced the already limited number of eligible Texans who can be served by LIHEAP; and

Whereas, Current appropriations for LIHEAP do not include advance funds, which are vital to ensuring the timely and orderly delivery of services during the period after funding for the program is authorized by Congress and before Texas is notified of its final appropriation level for the program year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to increase funding to the fully authorized level and include advance funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and to pursue a more equitable funding allocation formula for the program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to

the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-202. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to enacting legislation to make English the official language of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6

Whereas, English is the national language of the United States only by custom, not by law; and

Whereas, the United States is comprised of individuals from many ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds, and continues to benefit from this rich diversity; and

Whereas, these individuals, although keeping their ethnic background alive, were urged to take advantage of the educational system which taught them the English language and United States history; and

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, the common thread binding individuals of differing backgrounds has been the English language; and

Whereas, command of the English language is necessary to participate in, and take full advantage of, the opportunities afforded by life in the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the New Hampshire general court hereby urges the United States Congress to pass H.R. 997, "The English Language Unity Act of 2003," to establish English as the official language of the United States; and

That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-203. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Missouri relative to urging the United States Congress to authorize and appropriate full funding required to establish the Chiropractic Center for Military Research at Logan College of Chiropractic at its campus in Chesterfield, Missouri; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, musculoskeletal conditions are responsible for approximately 50 percent of all health-related military disability discharges and the most common non-traumatic cause of functional impairment during military operations; and

Whereas, chiropractic services often are used to treat musculoskeletal conditions, and Congress established chiropractic benefits and services for both active duty military within the U.S. Department of Defense and for veterans within the Veterans' Affairs health care systems; and

Whereas, doctors of chiropractic practice are in nearly 50 military treatment facilities, primarily testing musculoskeletal conditions and slowly are being added to the VA health care system; and

Whereas, there currently is no enterprise coordinating and guiding collaborative research efforts between preeminent chiropractic colleges, scientists, and the military researchers to address the primary questions surrounding integration of chiropractic into military health care environments; and

Whereas, there is a critical need to establish a robust, collaborative, national program to address the continued integration of chiropractic health care into the Department of Defense health care systems; and

Whereas, Logan College of Chiropractic and the Samuels Institute have proposed the establishment of a plan to create a new consorsial Chiropractic Center for Military Research in Chesterfield, Missouri, on the campus of Logan College; and

Whereas, the Center will facilitate development of research capacity in the area of musculoskeletal research, education and training through linkages with researchers and scientists at chiropractic educational institutions with researchers within the Department of Defense and with scientists and researchers at the Samuels Institute; and

Whereas, the research program to be pursued by the collaborative consorsial Chiropractic Center for Military Research will focus special, initial priority consideration on those musculoskeletal conditions that are affecting those active duty military and veterans participating in or returning from combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, including the role of chiropractic manipulation in the total care of those with amputations and prosthetics; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, urge the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to authorize and appropriate full funding required to establish the proposed Chiropractic Center for Military Research at Logan College of Chiropractic at its campus in Chesterfield, Missouri; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

POM-204. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Dr. Dalip S. Saund; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, Dr. Dalip S. Saund immigrated to the United States from India at a time when Indian nationals were denied eligibility for American citizenship; and

Whereas, Thanks to his initiative and the help of Indians in California and New York, Congresswoman Clare Booth Luce and Congressman Emanuel Celler were convinced to jointly introduce a bill in the United States Congress to allow Indian nationals to become American citizens, and after a long and hard struggle the bill was signed by President Truman on July 3, 1946; and

Whereas, Though Dr. Saund had started as a farmhand, he obtained a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley; and as a naturalized citizen started taking an active role in the political process of his adopted homeland; and

Whereas, In June 1950, he won his first political battle when he ran for and won a seat on the Imperial County Democratic Central Committee; and

Whereas, In November 1950, he was elected as a judge in Westmorland due to his exemplary grassroots campaign, but because he had not been a citizen for one full year the judgeship was denied him; and

Whereas, In 1952, he ran again for the judgeship against the incumbent and won, serving as judge in Westmorland for four years; and

Whereas, In October 1955, Dr. Saund became a candidate for Congress from the 29th Congressional District, facing a highly celebrated opponent who had rich supporters and who was a personal friend of the then President of the United States; and

Whereas, With the help of dedicated volunteers, Dr. Saund carried out an intensive campaign of voter registration, passed out thousands of "Saund circulars," visited thousands of homes, and thus made a definite impact on voters, resulting in the election of the "first native of Asia" to the United States Congress on November 6, 1956; and

Whereas, Today, the population of Asian Americans in the United States is in excess of 10 million, and Asian Americans, and particularly Indian Americans, seeking political office invoke Dr. Saund's name, much the same way as Dr. Saund himself invoked President Lincoln's name, as a source of inspiration and a worthy role model; and

Whereas, November 6, 2006, marks the 50th anniversary of the historic election of Dr. Saund to the United States Congress; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor the first Asian member of Congress, Dr. Dalip S. Saund; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges all Californians to celebrate September 20 of each year, Dalip S. Saund's birthday, in recognition of his outstanding achievement as the first native of Asia to be elected to Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, and to the United States Postal Service.

POM-205. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to ZIP Codes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Many communities in California have the advantage and convenience of possessing ZIP Codes that are unique to their respective communities; and

Whereas, The private development sector measures economic feasibility for investing in local communities based on data collected by ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, Sales taxes, franchise fees, federal funding, and other city revenue sources are traced through ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, Cities who share ZIP Codes may lose a portion of their revenue stream to other jurisdictions which the post office recognizes as the primary geographic area for that particular ZIP Code; and

Whereas, Unique ZIP Codes help to develop a city's identity so that citizens can rightfully participate in their local election processes holding their own elected officials accountable; and

Whereas, Local political and fiscal accountability is the cornerstone of democracy; and

Whereas, The ZIP Codes have a wider application than the delivery of mail to the cities in California; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service advises residents and businesses to identify their address by post office address rather than city address to ensure proper mail delivery; and

Whereas, Several cities in California also contain shared ZIP Codes and may not be aware of the negative impact such an arrangement may have on their community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and, the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the United States Postmaster to create ZIP Codes that do not encompass more than one municipality; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and the United States Postmaster.

POM-206. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to supporting parity for Mexican visitors to the United States by enacting legislation that would allow them the same six-month length of stay afforded to Canadian travelers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13

Whereas, Canadian travelers to the United States may stay in this country for up to six months, while Mexican visitors only recently gained the right to a 30-day stay with a laser visa under an expansion of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, which previously limited such stays to 72 hours and no more than 25 miles inside the U.S. border; and

Whereas, Aside from adversely affecting international goodwill between the United States and its neighbors to the north and south by the disparate treatment of their citizens, this disparity also has a negative impact on the economic stability of the U.S.-Mexico border; and

Whereas, If Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and other short-term travelers received the same opportunities to visit and do business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts, it would facilitate business between the United States and Mexico, boosting the U.S. and Texas economies; and

Whereas, El Paso and other Texas border communities that directly benefit from cross-border travel may expect a dramatic increase in local economic development if the length of stay for Mexican nationals with laser visas is extended from 30 days to six months; and

Whereas, Local community leaders attending a recent gathering of the U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce were assured by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson that the Bush Administration supports treating all international guests equally; and

Whereas, U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Representative Ruben Hinojosa, both of Texas, introduced legislation in the 108th Congress (S. 1908 and H.R. 3488, respectively) to allow Mexican nationals currently admissible under laser visa border crossing regulations to enter the United States as six-month nonimmigrant visitors; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to support parity for Mexican visitors to the United States

by enacting legislation that would allow them the same six-month length of stay afforded to Canadian travelers; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of State and to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-207. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the 32nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Whereas, January 22, 2005, is the 32nd anniversary of the historic United States Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) 410 U.S. 113, guaranteeing women's reproductive rights, an occasion deserving of celebration and special public commendations; and

Whereas, The 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* established constitutionally based limits on the power of states to restrict the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* is one of the most significant Supreme Court decisions in the 20th century promoting women's rights; and

Whereas, Reproductive rights are central to the ability of women to exercise their full rights under federal and state law; and

Whereas, It is the right of every American woman to determine when, if, and with whom to have children, and how many children to have; and

Whereas, Women's ability to control their reproductive lives has facilitated their equal participation in the economic and social life of the nation; and

Whereas, The state should not interfere with a woman's decision to either bear a child or terminate a pregnancy through a safe and legal abortion; and

Whereas, Women should not be forced into illegal and dangerous abortions, as they often were prior to the *Roe v. Wade* decision; and

Whereas, During the first half of the 20th century, illegal abortions accounted for about 50 percent of all maternal deaths; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* has significantly reduced the mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* continues to protect the health and freedom of women throughout the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States to protect and uphold the intent and substance of the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all Members of the Congress of the United States.

POM-208. A Senate Joint Memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado relative to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring that the total amount of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 05-007

Whereas, In 1998, the federal budget reported its first surplus, \$69 billion, since 1969; and

Whereas, From 1998 through 2001, the United States experienced 4 surpluses in a row and in 2001, the surplus reached \$128 billion; and

Whereas, The last time the United States had 4 surpluses in a row was over 70 years ago, from 1927-30; and

Whereas, Since 2001, the budget surpluses, which were projected to continue until 2008, have disappeared, and the total budget deficit for the 2004 fiscal year was about \$412 billion; and

Whereas, Due to congressional overspending, the budget deficit for the 2005 fiscal year could be around \$394 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office's budgetary projections; and

Whereas, President Bush's \$2.57 trillion dollar budget request estimates a budget deficit of \$427 billion, which includes additional funding for the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, President Bush's \$427 billion deficit estimate is approximately 17% of the federal budget, which would be the equivalent of a \$2.58 billion deficit for the state budget if Colorado's deficit equaled 17% of the state's \$15.2 billion budget; and

Whereas, The federal deficit is expected to remain around \$250 billion each year for the next 5 years, unless drastic cuts to programs or significant increases to taxes are made; and

Whereas, The Congressional Budget Office projects a cumulative deficit of \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years; and

Whereas, The federal public debt has increased and is now more than \$7.6 trillion, an amount equaling approximately \$121,000 for each American family or over \$25,000 for every man, woman, and child; and

Whereas, The baby boomer generation will soon retire, leaving less tax revenue and a higher drain on social services; and

Whereas, In fiscal year 2004, \$321 billion was paid in interest on the federal debt, which is 13% of the total federal budget, the third largest expense in the federal budget, according to the National Debt Awareness Center; and

Whereas, Fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering our standard of living, destroying jobs, and endangering economic opportunity now and for future generations; and

Whereas, Continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both the federal executive and legislative branches to spend no more than available revenues; and

Whereas, The federal government's unlimited ability to borrow raises questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of government, with potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with the people, as represented by their elected state legislatures, and opposition in the United States Congress repeatedly has thwarted the will of the people that a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution be submitted to the states for ratification; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That the General Assembly of the state of Colorado requests the United States Congress to expeditiously pass, and propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring that, in the absence of a war or national emergency, the total of

all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

POM-209. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to urging the Congress of the United States and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans hospital in Weslaco, Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 138

Whereas, Our veterans who live in South Texas have served their country bravely and risked their lives to preserve our country's freedom and democracy, and their sacrifices in our behalf are deserving of a veterans hospital to meet their health care needs; and

Whereas, Regrettably, South Texas currently lacks adequate health care resources for these proud men and women; the sole outpatient clinic in the eight-county area at the southern tip of Texas has limited hours of operation and must refer patients to other facilities for special tests or treatments; in addition, the nearest veterans hospital to the region with inpatient acute medical and surgical care and extended care is more than 250 miles away in San Antonio; and

Whereas, Veterans in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties alone number greater than 46,000, and a May 2004 report by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) acknowledged the need for improved and expanded medical facilities for veterans in South Texas; and

Whereas, Despite this assessment, however, the DVA has planned only the addition of 10 contract beds in Harlingen's Valley Baptist Medical Center; and

Whereas, Weslaco is located in the center of the Rio Grande Valley, less than one hour's drive from McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville, making it a convenient site for a hospital to serve the area's veterans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas respectfully urge the Congress of the United States and the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill the department's goal of providing excellence in patient care by building a veterans hospital in Weslaco, Texas, to serve the more than 46,000 veterans in South Texas who have bravely defended and served our country; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, to the secretary of veterans affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-210. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to rejecting provisions in the President's proposed federal budget that would result in the loss of funding for Veterans' Memorial Homes in New Jersey; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 263

Whereas, The President's proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2006 contains reduc-

tions to veterans' programs that would result in the loss of funding for the Veterans' Memorial Homes in this State; and

Whereas, The proposed budgetary reductions would hinder this State's ability to operate its three Veterans' Memorial Homes and may result in the closure of one or more of the homes if an alternate funding source is not provided; and

Whereas, The three Homes currently have a resident population of 812 veterans and the funding reductions contained in the President's budget would [cut that population] *reduce the number of veterans eligible for federal funding to 159 [residents]; and*

Whereas, Under the President's proposed budget, the Veterans' Memorial Homes would not meet the criteria for *retaining* federal matching funds [for] *invested in* construction, thereby requiring the State to reimburse the federal government for construction costs totaling approximately \$53.3 million; and

Whereas, The proposed reductions to veterans' programs contained in the President's budget would negatively impact New Jersey's ability to care for its veterans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges Congress to reject provisions in the President's proposed federal budget that would result in the loss of funding for Veterans' Memorial Homes in this State.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, every member of this State's Congressional delegation and the Governor.

POM-211. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico relative to the rejection of imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1855. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1856. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1857. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1858. A bill to provide for community disaster loans; considered and passed.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. TALENT):

S. 1859. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for a Federal Fuels List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1860. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve energy production and reduce energy demand through improved use

of reclaimed waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1861. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the phaseout of personal exemptions and the overall limitation on itemized deductions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1862. A bill to establish a joint energy cooperation program within the Department of Energy to fund eligible ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons in the national interest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1863. A bill to establish the Gulf Coast Recovery and Disaster Preparedness Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1864. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1865. A bill to establish the SouthEast Crescent Authority and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1866. A bill to establish an Under Secretary for Policy in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 1867. A bill to extend to individuals evacuated from their residences as a result of Hurricane Katrina the right to use the absentee balloting and registration procedures available to military and overseas voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 1868. A bill to ensure gasoline affordability and security to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. WARNER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BURNS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 271. A resolution designating the week beginning October 16, 2005, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA,